United Nations A/S-21/3

General Assembly

Provisional
30 June 1999

Original: English

Twenty-first special session

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 30 June 1999 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

1. At present, 32 Member States are in arrears under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter, which states as follows:

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member."

2. The minimum payments necessary to reduce the amounts owed by those Member States on their contributions so that they remain below the gross amount assessed for the preceding two full years (1997-1998) are the following:

	United States dollars
Bosnia and Herzegovina /a	177 393.45
Burundi	143 800.00
Cambodia /a	199 010.00
Central African Republic	122 500.00
Comoros /b	627 300.00
Congo /c	316 500.00
Democratic Republic of the Congo	41 000.00
Dominica	33 109.00
Equatorial Guinea	43 465.51
Gambia	143 000.00
Georgia /a	4 639 800.00
Grenada	5 299.00
Guinea	133 500.00
Guinea-Bissau /c	273 600.00
Iraq	9 135 200.00

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	United States dollars
Kyrgyzstan	502 600.00
Liberia	939 100.00
Mauritania	122 300.00
Mongolia	114 207.00
Nicaragua /c	155 200.00
Niger	142 000.00
Republic of Moldova	1 310 889.00
Rwanda	92 116. 23
Sao Tome and Principe	404 000.00
Seychelles	87 900.00
Sierra Leone	46 449.00
Somalia	805 400.00
Tajikistan /b	1 949 962.84
Togo	62 500.00
Turkmenistan	494 200.00
Vanuatu	144 700.00
Yugoslavia	12 678 500.00

(Signed) Kofi ANNAN
Secretary-General

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a/ By its decision 53/406 C of 7 April 1999, the General Assembly decided that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Georgia would be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until 30 June 1999.

b/ By its decision 53/406 A of 7 October 1998, the General Assembly decided that Comoros and Tajikistan would be permitted to vote in the General Assembly through the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

c/ By its decision 53/406 C, the General Assembly also decided that the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Nicaragua would be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until 30 June 2000.

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General Assembly

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Twenty-first special session
Agenda item 3

Credentials of representatives to the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Michael **Powles** (New Zealand)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 June 1999, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its twenty-first special session consisting of the following Member States: China, Fiji, Jamaica, Mali, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States of America, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

2. The Credentials Committee held its meeting on 30 June 1999.

3. Mr. Michael Powles (New Zealand) was unanimously elected Chairman.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 29 June 1999, concerning the credentials of representatives of Member States to the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly. The representative of the Legal Counsel made a statement relating to the memorandum by the Secretary-General, in which he, *inter alia*, updated the memorandum by the Secretary-General, indicating those credentials and communications received subsequent to the preparation of the memorandum.

5. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum and the statement relating thereto, formal credentials of representatives to the twenty-first special session, in the form required by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been received as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee from the following 47 Member States: Algeria, Armenia, Bahamas, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

6. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum and the statement relating thereto, information concerning the appointment of the representatives of Member States to the twenty-first special session had been communicated to the Secretary-General, as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, by means of a cable or a telefax from the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the Permanent Mission concerned, by the following 86 Member States: Afghanistan, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic,

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Chile, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

7. As noted in paragraph 3 of the memorandum and the statement relating thereto, the following 49 Member States participating in the twenty-first special session had not, as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, communicated to the Secretary-General information regarding their representatives to the session, but had previously empowered their permanent representatives to represent their respective States in all organs of the United Nations without limitation as to session: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Barbados, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Cape Verde, Chad, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Ecuador, Eritrea, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mauritius, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zambia.

8. The Chairman recommended that the Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of all Member States mentioned in the Secretary-General's memorandum, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the Member States referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present report would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

9. Having considered the question of the credentials of Afghanistan, the Committee decided to take the same position as was taken at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

10. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted the following draft resolution:

"*The Credentials Committee*,

"*Having examined* the credentials of the representatives to the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in the memorandum of the Secretary-General dated 29 June 1999,

"*Accepts*, subject to the decision contained in paragraph 9 of the present report, the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

11. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

12. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 14). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

13. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

14. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

United Nations A/S-21/5

General Assembly

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Twenty-first special session
Agenda item 8
Overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-first Special Session of the General Assembly

Rapporteur: Ms. Gabriella **Vukovich** (Hungary)

I. Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its twenty-first special session, on 30 June 1999, the General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. At the same meeting, in accordance with section C of decision S-21/21, which provided that the Bureau of the preparatory committee should serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, the Assembly elected Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh) Chairman, by acclamation.

2. The Ad Hoc Committee held four formal meetings and a number of informal meetings, on 30 June and 1 July, to consider the item allocated to it, namely, agenda item 8, entitled "Overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".

3. At its 1st meeting, on 30 June, in accordance with section C of decision S-21/21, the Ad Hoc Committee elected, by acclamation, Ms. Elza Berquó (Brazil), Mr. Ross Hynes (Canada), Ms. Armi Heinonen (Finland), Mr. Jacob Botwe Wilmot (Ghana), Ms. Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary), Ms. M. Patricia Durrant (Jamaica), Mr. Ryuichiro Yamazaki (Japan), Mr. Alexandru Niculescu (Romania) and Mr. Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda) as Vice-Chairmen. The Ad Hoc Committee decided that Ms. Vukovich would also serve as Rapporteur.

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4. In connection with its consideration of agenda item 8, the Ad Hoc Committee had before it the report of the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly.[1]

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 June, the Ad Hoc Committee heard statements by the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

6. At the same meeting, the Assistant Executive Director of the World Food Programme made a statement.

7. Also at the 2nd meeting, the representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research made a statement.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

9. Also at the 2nd meeting, the following non-governmental organizations made statements: World Youth Alliance; International Women Bond; Caucus of the Advancement of the Billings Ovulation Method; and Caucus of Women, Children and the Family.

10. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 July, the Ad Hoc Committee heard a statement by the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Executive Directors of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

12. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme made a statement.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of the World Bank made a statement.

14. Also at the 3rd meeting, the representative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women made a statement.

15. At the same meeting, the following non-governmental organizations made statements: Religious Consultation on Population, Reproductive Health and Ethics; Women's Coalition; World Population Foundation; International Council of AIDS Service Organizations; Youth Coalition; and International Planned Parenthood Federation.

16. At the 4th meeting, on 1 July, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted its draft report contained in document A/S-21/AC.1/L.1, as introduced by the Rapporteur.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/S-21/2 and Add.1 and 2).

II. Action taken by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

17. At its 4th meeting, on 1 July, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the paper entitled "Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", contained in document A/S-21/2/Add.2. The Chairman drew the attention of the Ad Hoc Committee to three papers containing paragraphs agreed to as a result of the negotiations held in the informal meetings.

18. At the same meeting, statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Argentina and Nicaragua (see chap. III).

19. Also at its 4th meeting, the Committee then decided to recommend the text entitled "Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development" to the General Assembly for adoption at its twenty-first special session (see para. 21 below, draft resolution).

III. Explanations of vote before the vote

20. The following explanations of vote before the vote on the text on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development are reproduced below at the request of the representatives of Argentina and Nicaragua.

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

"Although the Argentine Republic supports the consensus reached in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and the recommendation to the General Assembly to adopt the report, it wishes to emphasize that the Assembly has focused solely on certain aspects of the Cairo Programme of Action while failing to touch on other essential aspects having to do with population and development. Investment in education and comprehensive health, for example, should have been dealt with more thoroughly. Argentina requests that the following reservation be included in the section of the report on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which the Ad Hoc Committee is to submit to the General Assembly tomorrow morning.

"(a) The Argentine Republic wishes to express reservations regarding the concepts of 'reproductive health', 'sexual health' and 'reproductive rights' which are consistent with those expressed during the International Conference on Population and Development at Cairo. Accordingly, it reaffirms that it does not accept that these concepts may cover abortion, either as a service or a method of fertility control. This reservation is premised on the universal nature of life, which exists from the moment of conception until natural death; it is from that very moment that an individual, as

a unique being that cannot be replicated, enjoys the right to life, which itself is the basis for all other rights;

"(b) The Argentine Republic expresses its reservation to the concepts of 'sexual health' and 'reproductive health', which it understands as being applicable solely within the context of an individual's 'comprehensive health', a concept which now constitutes the main element of maternity without risk. Women's health should therefore be considered throughout all phases of the life cycle (infancy, childhood, youth, climacteric and menopause) and should not be limited solely to the reproductive phase;

"(c) With regard to the terms 'contraception', 'family planning', 'new options' and 'underutilized methods', the Argentine Republic expresses its reservation and states that it does not agree that these terms may cover abortion or voluntary interruption of pregnancy. Their practical applications are to be understood solely within the limits established by the National Constitution;

"(d) The Argentine Republic expresses its reservation to the term 'gender', which it interprets to mean the biological sexual identity of men and women;

"(e) The Argentine Republic wishes formally to acknowledge the rights, duties and obligations of parents as regards the education of children in general and sex education in particular. Sex education is a basic element of the educational rights of parents. The right of parents to educate their children is a universal primary law, as stipulated in article 26, paragraph 3, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognition of this inalienable right must be respected in all settings, whether formal or informal, inside or outside the family, in which children receive any type of education, instruction and/or training;

"(f) It is the interpretation of the Argentine Republic that any mention of 'young people', 'youth', 'adolescents', 'children', 'young men' and 'young women' in connection with sex education and reproductive health programmes must imply recognition of the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents;

"(g) With regard to the term 'obligations to the community', the Argentine Republic wishes to state the following reservation: family planning must be based on freedom of decision and respect for the human rights of spouses without any State interference or any subjugation to any goals or targets set by any Government or organization;

"(h) The Argentine Republic wishes to place on record that the present report omits any reference to the need to strengthen the family within the framework of population and development policies as set out in chapter V of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, even though the family plays a fundamental role in the development process, as it is the basic building-block of society;

"(i) The Argentine Republic wishes to state the following reservation with regard to the use of the term 'voluntary quality family-planning services': this term excludes any type of coercion, incentive, quota, demographic target or other, similar concept.

"The reservations expressed herein are based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Inter-American Human Rights Convention."

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]

"The Republic of Nicaragua wishes to join in the consensus on the present document and requests that the reservations expressed by the Nicaraguan delegation to the Cairo Programme of Action be included herein. The Nicaraguan delegation also wishes to express the following reservations:

"(a) When this report uses the terms 'female-controlled methods', 'new options', 'underutilized methods' and 'widest possible range of family-planning services', it is understood that they do not imply abortion or interruption of pregnancy;

"(b) The comprehensive education of children is a priority right of parents, in accordance with the Political Constitution of Nicaragua and article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

"(c) Nicaragua accepts the term 'gender' provided that it refers solely to men and women."

IV. Recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

21. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly

Adopts the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development annexed to the present resolution.

[*For the text, see document A/S-21/5/Add.1.*]